PARTISAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE

35th HOLIDAY APPEAL FOR CLASS-WAR PRISONERS

(Labor Defender, Dec. 1927)

Free All Class-War Prisoners!
For United-Front Class-Struggle Defense!
Open All the Police Archives!

**This is not charity—
it's an act of solidarity
with those in prison.
Their fight is our fight!**

Saturday, January 25
3–6 pm
St. Mark's Church in the Bowery
131 E. 10th St., Manhattan
(entrance on 11th St. near 2nd Ave.)
Tickets $10 • students/unemployed $5

Sponsored by the Partisan Defense Committee

The PDC is a class-struggle, non-sectarian legal and social defense organization which champions cases and causes in the interests of the whole of the working people. This purpose is in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League, the U.S. section of the International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist).

For more information: (212) 406-4252 • partisandefense@earthlink.net
Visit the PDC website: partisandefense.org • 𝕏@partisandefense • partisan_defense_committee

(See reverse side for information about the prisoners supported by the Holiday Appeal.)

Free the Class-War Prisoners!

This is the 35th Holiday Appeal for the Partisan Defense Committee's program of sending monthly stipends as an expression of solidarity to those imprisoned for standing up to racist capitalist repression and imperialist depredation. This program revived a tradition initiated by the International Labor Defense under James P. Cannon, its founder and first secretary (1925-1928). As of December 15, the PDC sends stipends to eight class-war prisoners.

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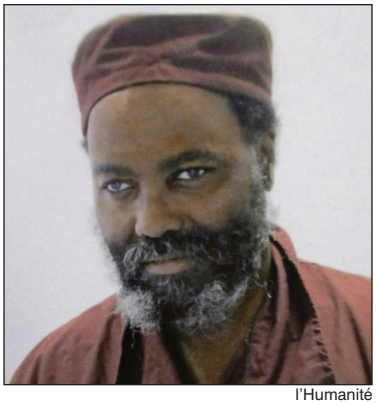
Mumia Abu-Jamal is a former Black Panther Party spokesman, a well-known supporter of the MOVE organization and an award-winning journalist known as "the voice of the voiceless." Framed up for the 1981 killing of a Philadelphia police officer, Mumia was sentenced to death explicitly for his political views. Federal and state courts have repeatedly refused to consider evidence proving Mumia's innocence, including the sworn confession of Arnold Beverly that he,



l'Humanité

not Mumia, shot and killed the policeman. In 2011, the Philadelphia district attorney's office dropped its longstanding effort to legally lynch Mumia, condemning him to life in prison with no chance of parole. Ever since, the state, including Philly's "progressive" D.A. Larry Krasner, has fought tooth and nail to keep Mumia buried in prison for life. Mumia's appeals continue to be denied even after the D.A.'s office discovered six boxes of new exculpatory evidence in 2018. Mumia's health has deteriorated in the past few years, primarily due to medical neglect and poor prison diet, added to his aging.

Georges Ibrahim Abdallah is a fighter for Palestinian rights and determined opponent of imperialism. Held in French prison since 1984, Abdallah has spent more time behind bars than any other class-war prisoner in France and most likely all of Europe. A leading member of the Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Factions, he was convicted on trumped-up charges of complicity in two murders of a CIA agent and a Mossad agent, as well as the attempted murder of an American consul. From 2004 to 2020, nine parole applications have been denied under direct pressure from the U.S. State Department. In November a court ordered Abdallah's release, but the government is appealing that order. Abdallah has always denied any involvement in these killings and should have never spent a day in prison.

The **Merrimack 4** are pro-Palestine activists—**Paige Belanger**, **Sophie Ross**, **Bridget Shergalis**, and **Calla Walsh**. They were witchhunted for participating in a November 2023 Palestine Action US protest aiming to disrupt production by Israeli arms maker Elbit in Merrimack, New Hampshire. The four were hit with serious felony charges and possibly decades in prison, as well as a "no contact" order preventing them from communicating with each other. They defeated the felony charges, but were sentenced to 60 days jail in Manchester, NH, starting November 14, 2024.

Leonard Peltier is an internationally renowned class-war prisoner. Peltier's incarceration for his activism in the American Indian Movement has come to symbolize this country's racist repression of its Native peoples, the survivors of centuries of genocidal oppression. Peltier was framed up for the 1975 deaths of two FBI agents marauding in what had become a war zone on the South Dakota Pine Ridge Reservation. The lead government attorney has admitted, "We can't prove who shot those agents," and the courts have repeatedly denied Peltier's appeals while acknowledging blatant prosecutorial misconduct. Before leaving office,

Gloria LaRiva

Barack Obama rejected Peltier's request for clemency. In 2024 Peltier was denied parole again. Peltier suffers from multiple serious medical conditions, including a heart condition which led to triple bypass surgery in 2017. He is incarcerated far from his people and family.

Alvaro Luna Hernandez (Xinachtli) is a Mexican American initially framed up in the 1970s for a murder he did not commit. He was politicized in prison where he helped lead a movement for prison reform and became an effective jailhouse lawyer. Xinachtli spent nearly a decade in solitary confinement. After the frame-up was exposed by the *Houston Post*, Xinachtli was freed in 1991, but the state continued to target him for his activism on behalf of Mexican Americans. He founded the National Movement of La Raza and led a successful campaign to free Ricardo Aldape Guerra, a Mexican national framed for killing a Houston cop, from Texas' death row. In 1996, the Brewster County Sheriff attempted to arrest him. When Xinachtli challenged the legality of the warrantless arrest, the sheriff pulled a gun compelling him to disarm the sheriff in self-defense. Xinachtli was railroaded for "aggravated assault" and outrageously sentenced to ***50*** years. He has now been continually confined in solitary for more than 19 years in Texas dungeons.

Contribute now! All proceeds from the Holiday Appeal events will go to the Class-War Prisoners Stipend Fund. This is not charity but an elementary act of solidarity. Send your contributions to: PDC, P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013; (212) 406-4252.

December 2024